

6 March 2022

Dear Chairs and Members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 5291, An Act Authorizing Bonding For Bikeways, Greenways And Recreational Trails, which will increase funds for greenways and bike and recreational trails in Connecticut.

The state's greenways and bike and recreational trails are vital to people statewide. They provide so many benefits, including enabling people to exercise, mental health benefits from being in nature, helping the environment, and boosting the economy, because people love to visit locations that have excellent greenspace and trails for biking, walking, and hiking.

In the last round of state funding, only \$3M could be awarded out of 63 applications totaling \$21.8M. This reflects the high unmet demand for funding. Increasing the amount that can be awarded to \$6M will importantly enable us to continue to build out our state trail network.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Abigail Roth
42 Lincoln Street, New Haven, CT